

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2648

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

February 22, 2008

An act to add Section 52372.5 to the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2648, as introduced, Carter. Career technical education.

Existing law encourages school districts to provide all pupils with a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates academic and career skills, incorporates applied learning in all disciplines, and prepares all pupils for high school graduation and career entry. Existing law provides for the establishment of various programs for career technical education in the public schools, including, but not limited to, regional occupational centers and programs for the purpose of, among other things, providing pupils with an opportunity to acquire entry-level career technical skills.

This bill would require the State Department of Education, commencing July 1, 2009, and using funds available for career technical education, to develop, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary for Education, the community colleges, and the Employment Development Department, a 5-year plan for the purposes of expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs, as defined, in high schools. The bill would require the plan to include specified components, including, but not limited to, methods for developing models for integrated curriculum and instruction, strategies for increasing the instructional time for pupils in high school, and an assessment of the development of regional occupational centers or programs and community college pathway programs, including technical preparation

and early college development and California partnership academies. The bill would specify that if funds are not available for developing the plan, the State Department of Education may apply for and accept grants and receive donations, and other financial support as specified. The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature as to the status of the plan, and any preliminary recommendations, by January 1, 2010.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 52372.5 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 52372.5. (a) For purposes of this section, a “career multiple
4 pathway program” means a four-year comprehensive high school
5 program that integrates academic and technical curriculum,
6 provides pupils with work-based learning opportunities, increases
7 pupil support services, and prepares all pupils for a full range of
8 postsecondary options, including apprenticeships, technical
9 training, community colleges, four-year colleges, and 21st century
10 careers.

11 (b) Career multiple pathway programs created for high schools
12 may include, but are not limited to, California partnership
13 academies, regional occupational centers and programs, and other
14 small schools, charter schools, academies, and small learning
15 communities.

16 (c) Commencing July 1, 2009, using funds available for career
17 technical education, the State Department of Education shall
18 develop in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary for
19 Education, the community colleges, and the Employment
20 Development Department a five-year plan for the purposes of
21 expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs in
22 high schools.

23 (d) The plan shall include at least all of the following
24 components:

25 (1) Assessment of the current structure of the department for
26 the purpose of maximizing the development of these programs.

27 (2) Methods for developing models for integrated curriculum
28 and instruction.

1 (3) Strategies for increasing the instructional time for pupils in
2 high school.

3 (4) Plans for increasing opportunities for high-quality learning
4 based on real-world careers.

5 (5) Methods for improving coordination of curriculum between
6 middle schools and high schools with career exploration counseling
7 for middle school pupils.

8 (6) Methods for improving coordination between high schools
9 and postsecondary institutions.

10 (7) Recommendations for increasing the supply of teachers who
11 can prepare pupils for a full range of postsecondary options.

12 (8) Recommendations for supporting regional coalitions in
13 planning and developing programs.

14 (9) Assessment of the development of regional occupational
15 centers or programs and community college pathway programs,
16 including technical preparation and early college development and
17 California partnership academies.

18 (10) Suggestions for increasing in-school support services.

19 (11) Recommendations for incorporating new measures into
20 the state's accountability system to better assess the results of these
21 programs.

22 (12) Assessment of the budgetary implications for ensuring all
23 pupils have access to these programs.

24 (e) If funds are not available, the department may apply for and
25 accept grants and receive donations, and other financial support
26 from public or private sources for purposes of this section.

27 (f) By January 1, 2010, the department shall report to the
28 Legislature as to the status of the plan, and any preliminary
29 recommendations.

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